

REMARKS

Claims 69-117 are currently pending in this application. Claims 96-114 have been canceled without admission and without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of those canceled claims in either this or other (e.g., related) patent applications. Claims 69, 75-80, 86-91 and 115-117 have been amended without prejudice or admission and new claims 118-147 have been added. Hence, claims 69-95 and 115-147 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

The above made amendments are fully supported in the application as originally filed and do not constitute new matter. Specifically, claims 69, 75-80 and 86-90 have been amended to specify that the claimed antibodies are ones having light and/or heavy chain variable regions from the particular germ lines recited in those claims. Independent claims 69 and 80 have also been amended to specify that the claimed antibodies are capable of binding human CTLA4 with *at least* a particular minimum level of binding affinity (10^8 M^{-1}) and, moreover, to particularly specify that the antibodies also inhibit CTLA4 binding to the B7-1 and/or B7-2 ligands.

Claim 91 has also been amended to more particularly recite preferred embodiments of the invention. In particular, the amended claim specifies that antibodies that (i) inhibit CTLA4 binding to the B7-1 and/or B7-2 ligands; and (ii) do not cross-react with non-lymphoid tissue (as illustrated, for example, in Table 4 on page 80 of the specification as filed. Claims 115-117 have been amended to particularly specify that the claimed antibodies are capable of binding human CTLA4.

New claims 118-147 have also been added to more particularly recite and distinctly claim other preferred embodiments of Applicants' invention. In particular, new

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dependent claims 118-120 recite antibodies that bind CTLA4 and have the particular combinations of complementarity determining regions (CDRs) recited in those claims. New dependent claims 137-144 also specify particular combinations of CDR sequences.

New independent claims 121 and 129 specify antibodies that bind CTLA4 and comprise heavy and light chain variable domains that are each from the particular germ lines recited in those claims. New claims 122-128 and 130-136 depend from claims 121 and 129, respectively. These dependent claims specify particular embodiments in which the claimed antibodies bind human CTLA4 with a particular minimum affinity, inhibit binding of the CTLA4 to B7 ligand(s) and/or do not cross-react with non-lymphoid tissue. It is noted that the limitations recited in these new dependent claims are identical to the limitations recited in dependent claims 70-74 and 81-85.

As stated above, the foregoing amendments are supported by this application as filed and do not contain new matter. It is believed moreover, that entry of this amendment will not unduly interfere with the preparation of a first Office Action in this application. Entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments are therefore respectfully requested. The Examiner is also invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative directly if she believes that it may advance prosecution of this

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application. An early and favorable examination of this application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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